Building Speculations in Glasgow.—At a fortnightly meeting of the Dean of Guild Court, held on Thursday in week before last, new building operations were sanctioned, inferring an outlay, we have been informed, of not less than 50,000*l*. The local *Herald* fears a building mania. The operative masons are becoming restive under their rising prospects. At same court the Fiscal directed the particular attention of the court to a case in the Drygate, in which a proprietor had erected two tenements, about 30 feet square, connected by a brick staircase serving both houses, and in which it was proposed to accommodate fifty-three separate families in single apartments. Forty-eight of these tenants would enter by one door three feet wide, and forty of them would find access to their houses by a staircase, which at some of the turns was only two feet eight inches wide. The tenement was six stories in height, with attics, and the whole erection was of such a character as to put to shame any of the old overcrowded, ruinous fabrics which the court had been so anxious to banish from the dense parts of the city. The court determined to look into the matter. Meanwhile, observes the *Herald*, our modern cheap builders may take a look at the place, for none of them have yet thought of carrying up "shiver" partitions to a height of six stories. We learn that a considerable portion of the building materials were carted from an old wretched fabric which was very properly razed to the ground last year, by Mr. Robert Napier, of Lancefield, who removed it to get quit of the nuisance in the vicinity of his extensive works in Washington-street. The cost of the structure, we are informed, will be about 1,200*l*.; and it is expected that a rental of between 200*l*. and 250*l*. per annum will be received for it.

Distraint for Rent.—At the County Court, Liverpool, on Wednesday in week before last, an action was brought to recover 9*l*. 6*s*. for overcharge made by defendant on a distress for rent in which he acted as bailiff. The judge decided that, according to the construction of the fifth section of the statute, the tenant was allowed five clear days to replevy goods or pay the rent, and that nothing more was necessary to be done by the bailiff than to take an inventory, and to secure the goods by keeping men in possession; that no appraisement was contemplated by the statute until the expiration of the five days, and that it was a duty cast upon the bailiff by law to seize a proper amount of goods; and for any assistance to obtain that he would have to pay himself, and he would be liable to an action only if he levied a considerable excess; that after the expiration of five days, he would be allowed a reasonable time for advertising and selling the goods, and therefore there was no necessity to advertise them for sale on the sixth or seventh day. The plaintiff, therefore, was entitled to recover, and he would allow the bailiff 1*l*. 1*s*. for levy, and 2*l*. 10*s*. for men in possession, which would leave a balance due to plaintiff of 9*l*. 16*s*., for which amount the verdict must be entered.

Electro-Telegraphic Progress.—On Tuesday last about twenty miles of the great submarine telegraphic cable had been shipped at Wapping to be transmitted to the Channel. We have already described this renewed endeavour to effect the telegraphic union of Britain and France. There are still doubts of the sufficiency of the means, and certainly a power of tenacity overcome by a force of 8 tons' weight is as nothing to forces which it *may* meet with in the great deep. That it is a decided improvement on the last, however, there can be no doubt. The last was a mere wire coated with gutta percha to a thickness like that of a small wax taper. We pointed out both then and previously the imprudence of trusting to gutta percha under such circumstances, and we now find elaborate precautions taken to protect that substance from the destroying agencies of the ocean. These are no more than necessary. We even find from the Berlin correspondence of the *Times* that the gutta percha which covers the Prussian telegraphs is constantly being destroyed by vermin, such as rats, although placed underground for comparative safety. Tar itself and flax are still vegetable substances, and may be acted on under the ocean—as timber is, for instance, by the *teredo navalis*—so as to be not very long a protection to the enclosed gutta percha even yet, any more than the galvanised iron wire, though that in ordinary circumstances certainly appears to be by no means so corruptible as iron naturally is. May it not become *de*galvanised in course of telegraphic use under the ocean? We, even yet, have not heard of adequate experimental test or inquiry having been gone into on these points. The present renewed experiment is rather a costly one, and of course it is desirable that the materials used should be as lasting and effective as well as strong as possible.

Metropolitan Commission of Sewers.—A special general court was held last week, at which the Essex-street sewer question was postponed till next court-day, when plans would be perfected. The court then proceeded to open various tenders for works, and the character of the work previously performed by the different candidates was openly discussed. Sir J. Burgoyne felt it desirable that the claims of the different contractors should be discussed in private: the other commissioners concurred, and it was understood that all contracts would in future be privately considered. In answer to the application made by the inhabitants of Richmond, as to the amount necessary to complete the drainage of that town, in order that they might raise the sum at once, the engineer reported that 2,241 feet of sewer alongside the river, and 50,637 feet of piping were required. 2,900*l*. had already been expended, and the remainder required would be about 4,950*l*. Reports as to various other works were then considered and agreed to.

Strike and Prosecution of Boiler Makers.—About 150 men, in the employ of Messrs. Kitson, Hewitson, and Thompson, boiler and locomotive manufacturers, &c., Leeds, recently struck work through a dispute about wages, and still remain out, but the firm are making efforts for filling their places by non-society men. Several of these, boiler-makers by trade, were on Monday week engaged at Newcastle, by Mr. Hewitson, at 25*s*. per week, for twelve months: he paid their fare to Leeds next day, and they were to commence work on Wednesday morning. They, however, failed in doing so, and warrants were obtained against five of them. They were immediately arrested, in what was understood to be the Boiler-makers' Club-house, and brought before the sitting magistrates at the Court House. A conference, however, took place between the defendants and their employers, after which the former expressed their willingness to return to their work and fulfil their contract. The Mayor expressed a hope that the defendants would, like good Englishmen, fulfil the engagement into which they had entered, and that the workmen on strike would endeavour to bring the differences they had with their employers to a close. The defendants were then discharged out of custody, on entering into their own recognizances, in the sum of 20*l*., to come up for judgment when called upon; the understanding being that if they fulfilled their engagement no further proceedings would be taken against them.

Papier Maché.—Mr. Charles Frederick Bielefeld, of London, has enrolled a patent for improvements in the manufacture of sheets of papier mâché, or substances of the nature thereof. These improved processes are for the manufacture of pressed articles from pressured sheets instead of pulp, and for the production of such prepared sheets. The apparatus which the patentee uses in this manufacture consists of a table, having a rack on either side, by which it is traversed backwards and forwards under a roller, so supported as to give the required degree of pressure to the material, and at the same time capable of being varied in its elevation, in order to reduce or increase the amount of pressure; or it may be a weighted roller for the purpose. The material which the patentee prefers for the manufacture of sheets of papier mâché, suitable for panels for cabins of steam-vessels and other like purposes, is given in the following proportions:—Mix with thirty parts of flour eighty parts of water, thoroughly incorporating the flour, so as to reduce the mixture to the consistency of paste, adding, at the same time, nine parts of alum and one of copperas. With this paste is then mixed fifteen parts of resin, previously dissolved by heat, adding, also, ten parts of boiled linseed oil and one of litharge. These ingredients having been mixed in the above order, are then mixed with about sixty parts of rag-dust, which the patentee finds the most economical, but other matters may be used, such as paper-makers' half-stuff or pulp deprived of its moisture to such an extent as to be no longer fluid.

Effects of Ventilation.—The following statement, from the history of the Dublin Lying-in Hospital, quoted by the *Advertiser*, is very striking. In the years 1782-3-4 and 5, of 7,650 infants, brought forth in the above hospital, 2,244 died within the first fortnight after birth, chiefly of convulsions, or what nurses called nine-days' fits. These children foamed at the mouth: the jaws became firmly closed: the face swelled and assumed a purplish hue, as though they were choking. This last circumstance suggested to the physician that a deficiency of wholesome air was connected with the great mortality. Air pipes, with other openings, were contrived: the rooms were freely ventilated; and behold the consequences:—

In 1786, of 1,372 children there died		51
In 1787, of 1,375	,,	59
(An unhealthy season.)		
In 1788, of 1,496	,,	55
4,243		165

Thus, after a proper application of ventilation out of 4,243 children there died 165; whereas the average previously from the same number, in the same place, was 1,632.

The Burmese Bell at Liverpool.—This gigantic bell, which was one of the spoils taken during the Burmese war, and is now erected on the Liverpool Landing-stage, for the purpose of giving warning during a fog, is found not to emit so loud a sound as was anticipated, and therefore proves to be comparatively useless. The metal is so thick that an ordinary clapper is wholly ineffectual in bringing out the full tone of the bell, which requires a power equal to that of a steam-hammer to ring it effectually. In the endeavour to bring out the sound in all its power, the tongue or clapper was several times unshipped, and fell upon the landing-stage, making indentations nearly an inch deep upon the oak floor, but providentially doing no other damage.

Information for House-agents.—Mr. Craven, as agent for Mr. Robinson, summoned Mr. Thorpe of Brunswick-street, Tranmere, on Friday, at the Birkenhead County Court, for the sum of 3*l*. 14*s*. 3*d*. including costs, being a quarter's rent for a house belonging to Mr. Robinson, and which Mr. Thorpe had occupied for part of a quarter. The defendant had let the house to another party, whom Mr. Craven accepted as a tenant, and upon quitting the house tendered to Mr. Craven the full amount of the rent then due, viz., 1*l*. 5*s*. 6*d*., which he refused to accept, and he also refused to give a receipt in full of all demands. The learned judge ruled that Mr. Craven had no right to refuse giving the receipt, and gave a verdict for the defendant.

Death in a Sewer.—At Bolton, on Friday week, a boy died in a pipe sewer, into which he was sent by a man employed by the subsurveyor to cleanse a length of eighty yards. The subsurveyor had expressed a doubt of its being properly cleansed, and two boys were sent through it to prove that it was so. A shaft was hastily sunk to extricate the youth, but eleven hours elapsed ere his body was got. The pipe in which it was found was filled with sludge to the depth of 13 inches, the vacant space at top being only 7 inches. The coroner's jury reprimanded the man who had sent the boys in for urging them to go through.

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